



## From the Executive Director's Desk

— Claire Mantonya

### Council Planning Retreat ó May 3 and 4

The Council's next meeting is a planning retreat with John Agosta, Vice President of Human Services Research Institute. The meeting will be held at the Utah State Library, 250 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City (shares the same building as The Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired). We will start on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and meet from 2 to 5:30 p.m. and resume on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> with meeting times from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be served. This planning retreat will begin our work toward devising our next 5-Year Plan.



#### John M. Agosta, Ph.D.

##### *Vice President, Human Services Research Institute*

John M. Agosta, Ph.D., is a Vice President at the Human Services Research Institute and has worked with people with disabilities for over 30 years. Dr. Agosta completed his doctorate in Rehabilitation Research at the University of Oregon, specializing in research methods and community supports for people with disabilities. Additionally, he has extensive experience with community supports, having worked in direct services and administrative positions within agencies offering early intervention, residential, vocational, or family support services.

Employed at HSRI since 1983, Dr. Agosta has worked under contract with state and federal agencies on a variety of projects focusing on community integration for people with disabilities. He has conducted analyses of state systems for people with developmental disabilities (e.g., Arkansas, Idaho, Oregon, Hawaii), and has studied specific facets of the field (e.g., trends in supported employment, family support, self-advocacy, Medicaid funding trends, self-directed supports). Presently, he is a Senior Policy Advisor at HSRI's National Center for Family Support. In addition, he helped found the national Self Advocate Leadership Network and is involved with several projects to explore design and application issues related to self determination and consumer directed supports. More recently, he helped found The Riot!, a national e-newsletter designed with and for self-advocates.

### Wanted ó Applications for Council Membership

Applications are open for three slots on the Council for terms that run from October 2010 ó September 2013. We are looking for two individuals with developmental disabilities and for one relative of a person with a developmental disability. **Applications are due by March 31, 2010**, so please encourage people you know who are interested in being a strong advocate voice to apply. Go to the Council website [www.utahddc.org](http://www.utahddc.org) and click on the icon for the application.

**Spread the word, please!**

## **GAP Efforts Reflected in Small Victories this Session**



The Grassroots Advocacy Partnership (GAP) is a project funded by the Council and begun last September. GAP Regional Organizers include: Kelie Babcock (Davis, Weber, Morgan); Jennifer Adams (Salt Lake); Jessica Kerr (West Salt Lake and Tooele); Brooke Wilson (Summit, Wasatch, Uintah,); LuWenn Jones (all of Southern Utah); Darrelyn Davis (Eastern Utah); Sean Atkisson (Utah County). All have done a great job of getting educated about the legislative process and then educating interested people in their areas about disability issues.

A ground swell of momentum developed this legislative session in the disability community in part as a result of GAP's efforts. Through several forms of social networking, GAP Organizers were able to distribute information and obtain support in a timely manner to educate legislators prior to key votes. Nearly 200 individuals were able to exchange and discuss information in their interactions on the GAP's Facebook page, Twitter and NING. The GAP transmitted 1,985 email messages to our GAP membership using Email Chimp. These messages were used to inform as well as call individuals into action. This does not include the uncounted email messages that were transmitted to individuals not identified as members of GAP, yet are individuals and family members with invested interest in disability legislation. The official GAP membership has reached 310 members.

Because of these efforts the following Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee members were contacted: Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Rep. John Dougall, Rep. Ben C. Ferry, Sen. Daniel R. Liljenquist, Rep. David Litvack, Rep. Keith Grover, Rep. Kraig Powell, Sen. Margaret Dayton, Sen. Patricia W. Jones, Rep. Paul Ray, and Rep. Rhonda Rudd Menlove. Additionally the following Executive Appropriations Committee members were contacted: Rep. Ron Bigelow, Rep. Bradley G. Last, Rep. David Clark, Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser and Sen. Patricia Jones.

The legislative session may be over for this session but the work of the GAP has only begun. If you have not joined the GAP, it is not too late. As a member you will have opportunities to expand your advocacy skills as well as be informed of the latest information from the halls of the Capitol.

**You may join the GAP through the Council website at [www.utahddc.org](http://www.utahddc.org).  
Year round advocacy is the goal!**

### **MEETING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: THE NEXT DECADE :**

**Saturday, March 20, 2010**

**Murray High School, 5440 South State St, Murray, UT**

The general public, individuals, parents, friends and professionals from the disability community are invited to participate in discussions facilitated by the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council to brainstorm how Utah can adapt and evolve to provide quality community services and supports for our family and friends with disabilities. Come with your thoughts and ideas. Sessions are:

**8:30 – 9:50 a.m.**

**10:00 – 11:20 a.m.**

**1:00 – 2:20 p.m.**

**CONTACT: Claire Mantonya 801-533-3965 or [clairemantonya@utah.gov](mailto:clairemantonya@utah.gov)**

## National SABE Conference Announced!

Kansas City, Missouri will be hosting the **2010 National SABE Conference September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>**. "Feeling the Music" is the theme. This conference is held every other year. In 2008, nineteen Utahns attended the conference in Indianapolis and had a great time. This year Bryon Murray, our SABE National Board member, will be completing his first four year term in office. The Council has supported him to participate in quarterly national meetings. Bryon is working as part of a national self-determination grant and is chairing the SABE bylaws committee. Through Bryon's leadership, the national SABE Board has improved communications with the states and representatives are providing quarterly regional informational reports.



The Council has budgeted money to provide scholarships for several people to attend the SABE National Conference this year. We would like to encourage anyone interested in attending this conference who have not received Council support to attend in the past, to contact Marsha Honoré-Jones at the Council office.

For people who have been saving their money to attend this event, we calculated that you will need approximately \$1,400 which will include airfare, hotel, meals traveling, and the registration fee. Registration will be \$375 and it covers all the meals during the 3 day conference. You may find out additional information on the web at [www.sabekc2010.org](http://www.sabekc2010.org)

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## New ADD Commissioner Appointed



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced in March that Sharon Lewis will be the new Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF.)

Sharon Lewis has over ten years of experience as a disability policy advocate. She currently serves as the Senior Disability Policy Advisor to U.S. House Committee on Education & Labor Chairman George Miller, a position she has held since 2007. In this capacity, she advises Chairman Miller and members of the Committee on legislative strategy and disability-related policy in education, employment and healthcare. Sharon also serves as the lead staffer on disability provisions of key pieces of legislation and on implementation oversight. During President Obama's transition, Sharon served as a member of the Department of Education Agency Review Team. Previously, she worked as a Kennedy Public Policy Fellow for U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Children & Families Chairman Chris Dodd. Prior to her work in Congress, Sharon served on the state level in various disability policy and program roles, and as a grassroots community organizer. Sharon received her BFA from Washington University in St. Louis. Her tenure will begin in April 2010.

# A SMALL FOOTPRINT

From the [www.disabilityisnatural.com](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com) E-Newsletter by Kathie Snow

During the last few years, we've become familiar with the concept of having an ecologically "small footprint" — each of us living in such a way that we generate the least negative impact on our beautiful planet. Using less electricity, gasoline, and other fuels and/or drinking tap water instead of bottled water represent some examples of the changes that can make a difference. Simultaneously, many are also working to reverse the existing damage to our planet. What if we applied the same principles to the lives of people with disabilities?

Many children and adults with developmental disabilities have an army of people in their lives (parents, educators, therapists, service providers, and others) who may generate many large footprints in their lives. We can have the best of intentions in providing massive doses of help, but our footprints can unintentionally cause harm when children and adults with disabilities experience learned helplessness and dependence, social isolation and/or physical segregation, and/or other negative consequences. In some cases, the army of footprints in a person's life may even trample and obscure the person's identity and humanity.

So . . . what if we became more intentional about generating the smallest footprint on the life of a child or adult with a disability? And what if we worked hard to reverse any harm that's already been done?

What if we allowed six-year-old Joe and 40-year-old Mary to make more of their own decisions (and allow them "permission to fail" so they can learn from their mistakes as others do)?

What if we provided Joe and Mary with the assistive technology devices, supports, and/or accommodations so they won't need so many "human interventions" in the form of therapies, "daily living skills," meeting goals, etc.? What if we focused on ensuring Joe and Mary live more self-directed lives, included in ordinary environments, instead of "protecting" them in special, artificial, and/or segregated environments? What if we realized that the best help we could provide is to encourage and support Joe and Mary in living the lives they want, instead of what we want? What if we realized that the most valuable influences in the lives of Joe and Mary are the ones they invite into their lives, from family, friends, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, etc., which are generated by love, shared interests, and other ordinary (but precious) affiliations?

Ultimately, what if we thought about ourselves, and wondered how it would feel to have so many people leaving big footprints in *our lives*? Would that action propel us in a new direction? We can do this, and if we ask, "What will it take," we'll generate the ideas and strategies to make it happen.

Maintaining a small ecological footprint demonstrates love and respect for Mother Earth. Leaving a small "intervention/help" footprint in the life of a person with a disability — allowing the person to blossom and experience the freedom, self-direction, and dignity most of us take for granted — represents great love and respect for our brothers and sisters who happen to have disabilities.



## H.C.R. 9 Autism, Disabilities, and Faith Concurrent Resolution

Rep. Ronda Menlove worked with autism advocates and faith communities to bring attention to the need for faith communities to embrace their members with disabilities. This resolution is very exciting as it opens up a dialogue that can help families become better integrated and supported in their faith community.

Marilyn Hammond, Ph.D., from Utah State University is providing several workshops around the state addressing this very topic over the next several months. Marilyn is the Associate Interdisciplinary Training Director at the Center for Persons with Disabilities as well as the Executive Director of the Utah Assistive Technology Foundation. The training is free and is tailored for faith leaders and families. Topics include:

- Creating a more inclusive and welcoming atmosphere
- Appropriate and effective communication
- Providing accommodations and meeting needs
- Access for people who are blind and hard of hearing
- Overview of various assistive technology devices
- Reaching out to people with disabilities
- Connecting with resources and supports

Please RSVP to Connie Panther at [connie.panther@usu.edu](mailto:connie.panther@usu.edu) or 435-797-1993. For more information, please call Marilyn Hammond at 435-797-3811 (email: [marilyn.hammond@usu.edu](mailto:marilyn.hammond@usu.edu)), Sachin Pavithran at 435-797-6572 (email: [sachin.pavithran@usu.edu](mailto:sachin.pavithran@usu.edu)) or all three at 1-800-524-5152.

### Training Locations, Times and Dates

**March 20:** Salt Lake City: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.: Family Links Conference, Murray H.S., 5440 S. State St.

**March 24:** Cedar City: 4:15 - 6:15 p.m.: Iron County Visitor Ctr, West Conference Room, 581 N. Main

**March 25:** Fillmore: 10:00 a.m. to noon: Fillmore Library, 25 South 100 West

**April 20:** Moab: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: USU Extension, Room C, 125 West 200 South

**April 21:** Price: 10:00 - noon: Carbon County Courthouse, Courtroom, 12 E. Main

**May 11:** Roosevelt: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: Rooms 6C and 8C, 985 Lagoon St.

**May 20:** Provo: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: Utah County Admin. Bldg, 100 E Center St., Rm L900

**May 26:** Logan: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.: USU Center for Persons w/ Disabilities, Rm 152, 6800 Old Main Hill

**June 2:** Tooele: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: 1021 W. Vine St., Rm 159

**June 9:** Randolph/Garden City: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.: 20 S. Main

## UTAH DD COUNCIL CALENDAR FOR 2010

(Please check the UDDC website frequently for updated information [www.utahddc.org](http://www.utahddc.org) )

### MARCH

**20 Council Focus Group: Meeting the Needs of People with Disabilities:  
The Next Decade:** Murray High School *(see page 2 for details)*

**25 [Access Utah Now](http://www.accessutah.org):** Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities: Jan  
Ferre, Co-Director

**30 Council Executive Committee Meeting** teleconference: 11:30 - 12:30 pm

### APRIL

**8 [Access Utah Now](http://www.accessutah.org):** Disability Law Center: Dr. Tracy Justesen, Managing  
Attorney

**22 [Access Utah Now](http://www.accessutah.org):** "9-1-1 Emergency Projectö: Amy Notwell, Program Co-  
ordinator

### MAY

**3-4 Full Council Retreat** at the Utah State Library  
*(see page 1 for details)*



**Call us with your disability questions!**

800.333.8824 [www.accessut.org](http://www.accessut.org)

Go to <http://www.ustream.tv/accesut7>  
for live and archived Access Utah Now broadcasts!



# U D D C

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